GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2358
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES IN GULF OF MANNAR AREA
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increasing incidents of smuggling activities in the Gulf of Mannar area;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Naval Observation Post (NOP) in the area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the NOP would be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) As per reports received from Indian Coast Guard and Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue (Anti Smuggling) authorities, there is no increase in smuggling activities in Gulf of Mannar area.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e): Government have established a 'Forward Observation Post' (FOP) of Indian Navy under 'Op Tasha' at Land's End with adequate naval personnel. In addition, Coast Guard along with Indian Navy carries out surveillance in order to prevent smuggling in the area.